



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/703,802	11/02/2000	Naoki Koga	43890-455	2159

7590

04/09/2004

McDermott Will & Emery
600 13th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

KHOSRAVAN, JIMAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2141

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/703,802

Applicant(s)

KOGA ET AL.

Examiner

Jiman Khosravan

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 1/4, 2/4, 1/5, 2/5, 1/6, 2/6, 1/7, 2/7, 1/8, 2/8, 1/9, 2/9, 1/10, 2/10, 11-13, 12/14, 13/14, 12/15, 13/15, 12/16, 13/16, 17-21, 20/22, 21/22, 23, 24, 23/25, 24/25, and 26-28 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 1/4, 2/4, 1/5, 2/5, 1/6, 2/6, 1/7, 2/7, 1/8, 2/8, 1/9, 2/9, 1/10, 2/10, 11-13, 12/14, 13/14, 12/15, 13/15, 12/16, 13/16, 17-21, 20/22, 21/22, 23, 24, 23/25, 24/25, and 26-28 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 November 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be

avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it recites the first claim of the application. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Drawing Objections

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4).

a). Reference characters "15" and "16" of figures 2, & 4-6 have both been used to designate "Ethernet I/F Unit". All other drawings that incorporate this informality need to be corrected as well.

b). Reference characters "38" and "39" of figures 4 and & "58" and "59" of figure 5 have both been used to designate "Connector" and "Cable Connector," respectively. All other drawings that incorporate this informality need to be corrected as well.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: Figures 2, 3, 4, item 19. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

6. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:

- a). "controller 40" in figure 8, page 12, line 15.
- b). "Wireless LAN unit 163", page 17, line 8.
- c). Page 19, line 2-4: The disclosure states the display unit 3 will light up when the memory card has acquired the information. However, display 3 only lists an LED for "WAN," "LAN," "Phone Line," "Wireless," "Autopilot," and "Power." There is no mention of memory LED or information LED.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

7. Figures 10, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, & 21 are objected to because they are duplicate drawings of figures 1, 4, 8, 1, 4, 7, & 8, respectively.

Claim Rejections ~ 35 U.S.C. § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

9. Claims 1/7 and 2/7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The claim recites transmission speed lessening means but is not disclosed in the disclosure.

10. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

11. Claim 10 recites the limitation "the main body" in line 25. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections ~ 35 U.S.C. § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

13. Claims 1, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/8, 1/9, 12, 13, 12/15, 13/15, 17-21, 20/22, 21/22, 23, 24, 23/25, 24/25, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Allan (US 6,584,096).

a). As per claim 1, Allan discloses a network connection apparatus comprising a first interface unit including at least one physical layer for connecting

to an external network (Figure 1, item 12, "Home Gateway," is connected to external network, item 18, "Internet."), a second interface unit including a plural physical layers for connecting to an internal network (Figure 1, item 12, "Home Gateway," is connected to internal network, item 10, "Home Network."), and a controller for controlling the first interface unit and the second interface unit wherein the controller transmits and receives information between the first interface unit and second interface unit and between the second interface unit (Figure 5: The network connection apparatus, Home Gateway, connects to a Home Network device and further connects to the Internet. Col. 1, lines 12-23: Information is exchanged between the devices connected to each other through the second interface unit, Home Network).

b). As per claim 1/4, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the information to be transmitted and received between the first interface unit and the second interface unit, and between the second interface units include isochronous data (Col. 2, lines 47-50: The Home Network is connected to the Internet where data streams originate. Isochronous data such as multimedia streams, i.e. streaming video is well known in the art).

c). As per claim 1/5, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the second interface unit has a transmission

speed of 10Mbps or more (Col. 5, lines 22-29; Col. 6, lines 25-30: Allan discloses a Home Network where Home Network devices include computers and are assigned Ethernet MAC addresses. Such Ethernet cards include 10/100T Ethernet Cards that allow data transmission rates between 10 to 100 Mbps).

d). As per claim 1/6, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the controller exclusively controls the second interface unit (Figure 5: The network connection apparatus, Home Gateway, connects to a Home Network device and further connects to the Internet. Col. 1, lines 12-23: Information is exchanged between the devices connected to each other through the second interface unit, Home Network).

e). As per claim 1/8, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the first interface unit incorporates a cable modem (Col. 1, lines 12-13; Col. 4, lines 20-34: The Home Gateway connects to the Internet through any connection such as wire, transmission line, bus, waveguide, and fiber optics to name a few).

f). As per claim 1/9, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the first interface unit uses a telephone line and incorporates a modem (Col. 1, lines 12-13; Col. 4, lines 20-34: The Home

Gateway connects to the Internet through any connection such as wire, transmission line, bus, waveguide, and fiber optics to name a few).

g). As per claim 12, Allan discloses a network connection apparatus comprising a first interface unit including at least one physical layer for connecting to an external network (Figure 1, item 12, "Home Gateway," is connected to external network, item 18, "Internet."), a second interface unit including a plural physical layers for connecting to an internal network (Figure 1, item 12, "Home Gateway," is connected to internal network, item 10, "Home Network."), an acquired information saver for saving information acquired from the external network (Figure 7, "Data Transaction Arrives:" The Home Gateway must have memory in order to process the data and connect Network Devices to its ports and connect itself to the Internet), and a controller for controlling the first interface unit and the second interface unit wherein the controller transmits and receives information between the first interface unit and second interface unit and between the second interface unit (Figure 5: The network connection apparatus, Home Gateway, connects to a Home Network device and further connects to the Internet. Col. 1, lines 12-23: Information is exchanged between the devices connected to each other through the second interface unit, Home Network) and saves the information in the acquired information saver.

h). As per claim 13, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses comprising a connection request information saver for saving the connection request information from a client connected to the second interface unit (Figure 7, "Data Transaction Arrives:" The Home Gateway must have memory in order to process the data and connect Network Devices to its ports).

i). As per claims 12/15 and 13/15, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the information stored in the acquired information saver is isochronous data (Col. 2, lines 47-50: The Home Network is connected to the Internet where data streams originate. Isochronous data such as multimedia streams, i.e. streaming video is well known in the art).

j). As per claim 17, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses an access information applying means for providing a client connected to the second interface unit with information about access (Figure 9: Col. 7, lines 30-42: The Home Network Devices request a port number and the Home Gateway connects the device to the Gateway after acquiring a port number), where the controller further provides the client with the information about access by the access information applying means when it is recognized that the client is

connected to the second interface unit (Col. 2, lines 40-46: auto discovering of Home Network Devices).

k). As per claim 18, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the information about access is at least IP address (Col. 1, lines 30-39; Col. 5, lines 37-42).

l). As per claim 19, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the number of IP addresses is variable and the number of connected clients is controlled (Col. 1, lines 30-39; Col. 5, lines 37-42 & lines 54-64: Port numbers are used instead of IP addresses and are assigned randomly).

m). As per claim 20, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses an access information applying means for acquiring information about access from an Internet service provider connected through said first interface unit (Col. 1, lines 30-39; Col. 5, lines 54-65: The Home Gateway connects to the Internet and receives an Internet Address) where the controller further acquires the information about access from the said access information acquiring means when it is recognized that the first interface unit is connected to the Internet service provider (Col. 5, lines 54-65: When the Home Gateway is given an Internet address, it must be connected to the Internet service provider).

n). As per claim 21, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the access information acquiring means acquires the information about access from the Internet service provider, reliant to media access control (MAC) address of the client connected to the second interface unit (Col. 6, lines 25-30).

o). As per claim 20/22, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the information about access is at least IP address (Col. 1, lines 30-39; Col. 5, lines 37-42).

p). As per claim 21/22, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the information about access is at least IP address (Col. 1, lines 30-39; Col. 5, lines 37-42).

q). As per claim 23, it has the same claim limitations as per claims 17 and 20 and is therefore rejected under the same rationale.

r). As per claim 24, it has the same claim limitations as per claim 21 and is therefore rejected under the same rationale.

s). As per claim 23/25, it has the same claim limitations as per claims 18, 20/22, and 21/22 and is therefore rejected under the same rationale.

t). As per claim 24/25, it has the same claim limitations as per claims 18, 20/22, and 21/22 and is therefore rejected under the same rationale.

u). As per claim 26, it has the same claim limitations as per claim 19 and is therefore rejected under the same rationale.

v). As per claim 27, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses IP address varying means for translating the first IP address and second IP address (Col. 1, lines 30-39; Col. 5, lines 45-65: Connecting the Home Gateway to the Home Network Devices and to the Internet requires translation of the IP addresses).

w). As per claim 28, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses IP address varying means for translating the first IP address and second IP address (Col. 1, lines 30-39; Col. 5, lines 45-65: Connecting the Home Gateway to the Home Network Devices and to the Internet requires translation of the IP addresses).

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 2, 3, 2/4, 2/5, 2/6, 2/8, 2/9, 2/10, 2/11, 12/16, and 13/16, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allan, and further in view of Stein (US 5,771, 468).

a). As per claim 2, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above but does not explicitly teach one of the second interface units to be a detachable module. However, Stein teaches communication system and device where a chassis has the means for removably mounting a plurality of components for various communication systems. The components of the device could be replaced and changed without getting rid of the main device (Col. 2, lines 29-67).

By implementing removable interface of Stein in the Home Gateway of Allan, users of the home gateway can now easily upgrade different components of the gateway.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Stein in the device of Allan because by implementing the specification as described above, the user would be able to purchase only the replacement components necessary for modification instead of the complete Home Gateway, allowing savings in cost (Col. 2, lines 29-67).

b). As per claim 3, Allan-Stein discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses the module is detachable through a lost conforming to a PC card standard (Stein: Col. 4, lines 29-36).

c). As per claim 2/4, Allan-Stein discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the information to be transmitted and received between the first interface unit and the second interface unit, and between the second interface units include isochronous data (Allan: Col. 2, lines 47-50: The Home Network is connected to the Internet where data streams originate. Isochronous data such as multimedia streams, i.e. video is well known in the art).

d). As per claim 2/5, Allan-Stein discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the second interface unit has a transmission speed of 10Mbps or more (Allan: Col. 5, lines 22-29; Col. 6, lines 25-30: Allan discloses a Home Network where Home Network devices include computers and are assigned Ethernet MAC addresses. Such Ethernet cards include 10/100T Ethernet Cards that allow data transmission rates between 10 to 100 Mbps).

e). As per claim 2/6, Allan-Stein discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the controller exclusively controls

the second interface unit (Allan: Figure 5: The network connection apparatus, Home Gateway, connects to a Home Network device and further connects to the Internet. Col. 1, lines 12-23: Information is exchanged between the devices connected to each other through the second interface unit, Home Network).

f). As per claim 2/8, Allan-Stein discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the first interface unit incorporates a cable modem (Allan: Col. 1, lines 12-13; Col. 4, lines 20-34: The Home Gateway connects to the Internet through any connection such as wire, transmission line, bus, waveguide, and fiber optics to name a few).

g). As per claim 2/9, Allan-Stein discloses the claimed invention as described above and further discloses wherein the first interface unit uses a telephone line and incorporates a modem (Allan: Col. 1, lines 12-13; Col. 4, lines 20-34: The Home Gateway connects to the Internet through any connection such as wire, transmission line, bus, waveguide, and fiber optics to name a few).

h). As per claim 2/10 Allan-Stein discloses the claimed invention as described above and further teaches wherein the second interface unit is a wireless interface unit separated from the device (Stein: Col. 3, lines 21-29: RF circuitry card).

i). As per claim 2/11 Allan-Stein discloses the claimed invention as described above and further teaches wherein the wireless interface unit may be provided with an antenna (Stein: Figure 3A; Col. 3, lines 21-29; Col. 5, lines 15-23: RF circuitry 304 has antenna 308).

j). As per claims 12/16 and 13/16, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above but does not explicitly teach wherein the acquired information saver is a detachable module. However, Stein teaches communication system and device where a chassis has the means for removably mounting a plurality of components for various communication systems. The components of the device could be replaced and changed without getting rid of the main device (Col. 2, lines 29-67).

By implementing removable interface of Stein in the Home Gateway of Allan, users of the home gateway can now easily upgrade different components of the Gateway.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Stein in the device of Allan because by implementing the specification as described above, the user would be able to purchase only the replacement components necessary for modification

instead of the complete Home Gateway, allowing savings in cost (Col. 2, lines 29-67).

16. Claims 1/10 and 1/11 are is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allan, and further in view of Barzegar et al. (US 5,559,501).

a). As per claim 1/10, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above and further teaches one of the second interfaces to be a wireless connection using antennas (Allan: Col. 4, lines 20-35) but does not explicitly teach the wireless interface unit to be separated from the device. However, Barzegar teaches a wireless module for plug-in capability into a communication device.

By implementing the wireless module of Barzegar into the Home Gateway of Allan, the user can now change the wireless module of the Home Gateway if it becomes ruined without replacing the entire Gateway.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Barzegar in the device of Allan because by implementing the specification as described above, the user can now change the wireless communication equipment if the standards of wireless communication change or if the user wants to allow communication in more than one system of wireless communication (Barzegar: Col. 1, lines 16-30).

b). As per claim 1/11, Allan-Barzegar discloses the claimed invention as described above and further teaches wherein the wireless interface unit may be provided with an antenna (Barzegar: Col. 1, lines 40-55).

17. Claims 12/14 and 13/14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allan, and further in view of McLaughlin et al. (US 5,905,476).

a). As per claims 12/14 and 13/14, Allan discloses the claimed invention as described above but does not explicitly teach a display means indicating storage of the information in the acquired information saver. However, McLaughlin teaches a modem connected to an internal and external network wherein an LED displays there is data stored inside the modems memory (McLaughlin: Figure 2, item 90K & 76; Col. 6, lines 64-65).

By implementing the display device of McLaughlin in the Home Gateway of Allan, users of the home gateway can now easily see if data has arrived.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of McLaughlin visual indication using LEDs is well known in the art.

Conclusion

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jiman Khosravan whose telephone number is (703) 305-0704. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (703) 305-4003. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Communication via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [rupal.dharia@uspto.gov].

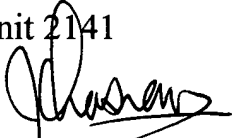
All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Application/Control Number: 09/703,802
Art Unit: 2141

Page 21

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Jiman Khosravan
Examiner
Art Unit 2141


April 1, 2004


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER